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Brace Meligion Merica

LEAFLET No. 3

The Home and the Church



Listued by The Context Board of Rollgique Education of the Cintral of England in Canada BX 5609

THE HOME AND THE CHURCH.

We are constantly being told that this is the age of "the child" and of "young people." It is true that increasing interest is being taken in child welfare and the education of the young, but in centreing our interest and thought on the children, we must see to it that the welfare and education of parents are not neglected. So this pamphlet goes addressed to parents.

Most of the problems, religious, moral and physical, that relate to children would be quickly solved for the Church and State if parents could be brought to realize their mutual and individual responsibility for the training of their children—and not throw the burden of this on the Church and State.

The parents make the home. The ideas and ideals of parents make the kind of influence the children will be surrounded with as they grow up. The influence of the home is one of the most powerful in determining a man's or woman's character. Have you not noticed that in the "Lives" of great people, biographers are always careful to tell us what the subject's home was like-what kind of a man his father was, religious or irreligious, whether his mother was worldly or an inspiration and help to him, etc.? "Home" has had a mighty influence on Anglo-Saxon life. "When home life, with its sanctities, its simplicities, its calm, and deep joys and sorrows, ceases to have its charm for us, the greatest break-up and catastrophe in English history will not be far off." So wrote the great Dean Church of St. Paul's, London.

Realizing the importance of home influence

on the character of men and women, fathers and mothers might well ask themselves, what sort of a home are we giving our children is its influence all for their highest good?

I. Home Life is Menaced in Our Time.

- 1. It is not easy, especially in our larger cities, to find a place to make a home. High rents, etc., force people to live in apartments—apartments often don't want children. You can't have a home without children.
- 2. It appears to be "the thing" to demand a "good time" which generally means being excited by something to no purpose.

Most people cannot have a "good time" most of the time, and at the same time look after their children and be with them as they should.

3. Selfishness on the part of a father or mother will blight any home. A selfish father who thinks his duty is done when he has provided material necessities for his family, but who does not "bother" about the children except when they bother or disgrace him, creates a bad atmosphere in which to bring up children.

A selfish mother whose one regret is that the children are "such a tie" and who chafes at her God-given task to bring the children up in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord," robs her children of one of the most potent influences for their future good conduct—"a mother's unconscious influence." Selfish parents make selfish children.

4. The ruin of a home is an "unhappy marriage." It bears its fruit in "family rows" or an atmosphere of suspicion and distrust. If such is the condition, is it any wonder that the movies, the lodge, the club—anything anywhere is sought as a refuge from or an antidote to such a nerve-wracking place.

Can we not see that child welfare is akin to the problem of the home, and the problem of the home is to be solved by the parents.

II. What will help parents to solve the problem of the home?

First, note two things:

- (a) The Christian religion made the home. Outside the influence of the religion of Jesus Christ we find nothing that corresponds to what we mean by home.
- (b) Things that make homes unhappy are against the religion of Jesus Christ. Realizing this we have some guidance to a solution of our problem.
- 1. There is a Christian view of marriage. This Holy Estate is a mutual responsibility and a training ground for character, and can only be fulfilled by the help and grace of God. If this were borne in mind and the grace of God sought after, there would be fewer unhappy marriages.

If those who are unhappy in their marriage each turned to the Lord of all Good Life to seek His guidance He would make "all things new" for them. The religion of Christ is the best preventative for and the only corrective to an unhappy marriage. Look at the marriage service in the Prayer Book and see what a Christian marriage is—and how it is to be fulfilled in a Christian way.

2. There is a Christian view of parentage —children are "a gift and heritage of the

Lord." They are to be brought to the Lord and brought up "in the Lord," for the service of the Lord.

Is not this the teaching of the Baptismal service? Because we believe this we bring our children to God in Holy Baptism and receive them back from Him to educate and train in the nurture and admonition of the Lord that they may, in Confirmation, give themselves to God and receive the enabling and strengthening Gift of the Holy Spirit.

3. There is the Communion Service. Parents and children are faced with the "Table of the Lord." It tells all of the sacrifice for the sins of all. It tells of the claim of the Glorified Lord in the worship and service of all, of the help and grace that the Good Shepherd will give to all. It is the rallying centre of the family for forgiveness, guidance, strength and peace.

The Church is in these and many other ways the safeguard of the home by holding up Jesus Christ to all.

The home that is vitally related to the Church and her sacred ordinances has the only safeguard of its happiness—Jesus Christ. It is our wisdom, as parents, to think again of how the word home, and all its purity and happiness, goodness and unselfishness, is due to the influence of the Christian Church. Let us resolve, for the sake of our children, to keep ourselves and them in close touch with the Church, which, in all her formularies and services, keeps us reminded of the ideals of Jesus Christ, and points us to Him as the Giver of Grace to help us in the way of life. Let us de-

termine in every way possible, for the sake of our country, to strengthen the Church that the influence of Jesus Christ may extend to cleanse and purify homes that know Him not, and that from them may go forth sons and daughters of Christian character to perpetuate the happy Christian homes which are the glory of our country.



